


Wigan Rural District Council

Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health



FOR THE YEAR 1950



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Wigan Rural District Council

Chairman :

E. T. HAMPSON, ESQ., J.P.

Vice-Chairman :

R. I. RANDALL, ESQ.

Councillors :

E. FOSTER, ESQ.

N. GASKELL, ESQ.

J. H. GILL, ESQ.

J. K. HODGE, ESQ.

W. HOPE, ESQ.

J. PRESCOTT, ESQ.

Clerk :

ROBERT GASKELL, A.L.A.A.

Staff Public Health Department :

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

G. H. POTTER, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Engineer, Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector :

J. HOLDING.

Water Inspector :

W. R. WRIGHT.

Bank Chambers,
Wallgate,
Wigan.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Wigan Rural District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting to you the Annual Report on the health of the District, compiled, as in previous years, in the abbreviated form indicated by the Ministry of Health.

I take this opportunity of tendering my best thanks to the Officials of the Council, the Staff of the Health Department, and especially to the Sanitary Inspector, for valuable help and co-operation at all times.

I desire also to express to the members of the Council my appreciation of the courtesy and consideration they have always displayed towards me.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. H. POTTER.

August, 1951.

Wigan Rural District Council

1.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area : 11,696 acres.

Population (Census 1931)	6,126
Estimated mid-1950 (Registrar-General)	8,073
Total Number of Houses (Census 1931)	2,290
Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1950—	
according to Rate Book	2,384
Rateable Value	£43,123
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	£168

The chief industries of the Wigan Rural District are agriculture, sandstone quarrying, glue and linoleum manufacture and malt extract, bleaching and dyeing. Certain areas are purely residential.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Male	F.	Total.
Live Births (Legitimate)	51	50	101
(Illegitimate)	2	—	1
	—	—	—
TOTAL	53	50	103
	—	—	—
Still Births (Legitimate)	1	1	2
(Illegitimate)	—	—	—
	—	—	—
TOTAL	1	—	2
	—	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :			
(Legitimate)	—	—	—
(Illegitimate)	—	—	—
	—	—	—
TOTAL	—	—	—
	—	—	—
DEATHS	60	43	103

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population mid-1950	+12.8
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	+12.8
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	Nil.
No. of Women dying in, or in consequence of, Pregnancy and Childbirth :	
From Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis.....	Nil.
From other maternal causes	Nil.
Maternal Death Rate per 1,000 Total (live and Still)	
Births due to Post Abortive Sepsis	Nil.
Maternal Death Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births	
due to other causes	Nil.
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :	
All Infants per 1,000 live Births	Nil.
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live Births	Nil.
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live Births	Nil.
Neo-natal mortality :	
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age	Nil.
Death Rate per 1,000 live Births	Nil.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	14
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
Deaths from Diarrhoeae (under 2 years of age)	—

TABLE I.
Per 1,000 of the Estimated Population.

	Live Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Death Rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	Cancer Death Rate
Mean of 5 years—				
1945—1949.....		17.7	11.8	0.18 2.96
1949.....		16.3	12.4	0.25 1.25
1950.....	+12.8	+12.8	0.25	—*
Increase or Decrease in 1950 on 5 years' average, 1945—				
1949	—4.9	1.0	0.07	—
On previous year's average	—3.5	0.4	—	—

* In view of the fact that particulars of cancer deaths supplied for 1950 are not strictly comparable with those of previous years, the cancer death rate for 1950 has been omitted.

MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE.

	Per 1,000 Live Births	Per 1,000 (Total Live and Still Births)	Rate of Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births
Mean of 5 years—			
1945—1949.....	2.96	2.91	43
1949.....	Nil.	Nil.	23
1950.....	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Increase or Decrease in			
1950 on 5 years' average,			
1945—1949	—2.96	—2.91	—43
On previous year's average	Nil.	Nil.	—23

In the next Table are shown the chief causes of Death and number of Deaths from each cause in 1950.

TABLE II.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	No. of Deaths.	
	M.	F.
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	2	—
Tuberculosis—Other	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
Measles	—	—
Cancer	9	5
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	—
Diabetes	—	—
Vascular Lesions of nervous system	5	6
Coronary disease, angina	8	2
Hypertension with heart disease	1	1
Other heart disease	11	19
Other circulatory disease	—	—

Influenza	2	—
Pneumonia	3	1
Bronchitis	4	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.....	—	—
Congenital malformations	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	4
Suicide and other violent causes	8	1
	<hr/> 60	<hr/> 43
	<hr/>	<hr/>

2.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

LABORATORY ARRANGEMENTS.—Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Pathological Department of the Wigan Royal Infirmary and the Public Health Laboratory, Monsall, Manchester. The arrangements are satisfactory, a report being received on every examination.

One report was received from the Wigan Royal Infirmary during the year and two water bacteriological examination reports were received from Monsall Hospital.

3.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.—The Parishes obtain water supplies from the following sources :—

HAIGH	Blackrod U.D.C.	} Upland Surface Water
WORTHINGTON	Standish U.D.C.	
SHEVINGTON	Standish U.D.C.	
PARBOLD	Own Supply Deep Well Water	
WRIGHTINGTON	Own Supply Deep Well Water and Spring Water.	
DALTON	Wrightington do.	

Table showing Consumption by Trade and Domestic Users.

Parish	Estimated “ Water ” Population	Average Daily Consumption (in gallons)			Average Consumption per day per head of “ Water ” Population.		
		Domestic	Trade	Supplied to other Districts	Domestic	Trade	Total
WRIGHTINGTON	2,550	53,560	25,463	Bispham3380	21.00	9.98	30.98
SHEVINGTON	3,100	51,306	13,358	....	16.55	4.31	20.86
PARBOLD	950	17,317	3,643	....	18.23	3.83	22.06
HAIGH	770	10,435	38,660	To Aspull 13,679	13.55	50.21	63.76
DALTON	430	4,698	6,512	....	10.92	15.14	26.06
TOTAL	7,800	137,316	87,636	....	17.60	11.23	28.83

Average Daily Total, 224,952
 Domestic and Trade

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION (at the end of 1950) :—

Number of Privy Middens	288
Number of Closets attached to Privy Middens.....	425
Number of Pail Closets	553
Number of Freshwater Closets	1,621
Number of Dry Ashpits	28
Number of Movable Ashbins	1,769
Number of Houses on Water Carriage System	1,437

During the year 5 privy closets were converted to fresh w.c.s and 5 to pails ; 2 pail closets were converted to fresh w.c.s 10 movable ashbins were substituted for fixed receptacles.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Two refuse vehicles with 14 workmen are engaged on House Scavenging.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA.

Number of Premises visited	340
Number of Nuisances discovered	86
Number of Nuisances abated	70
Number of Informal Notices served	80
Number of Statutory Notices served	—
Number of Legal Proceedings	1

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

Occasional inspections under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934 and the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the ventilation and temperature of shops and offices and to sanitary conveniences were carried out during the year.

CAMPING SITES.

There are two Camping Sites in the Rural District.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are none in the district.

DISINFESTATION OF VERMINOUS PREMISES.

One house was found to be infested and was dealt with by stoving and spraying with sulphur dioxide and gammexane.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The manufacture of glue is carried on in the Appley Bridge area under the constant supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are none in the district.

CANAL BOATS.

No infringements of Acts were discovered.

SCHOOLS.

The water supply to the Schools in the area is constant and sufficient and the facilities for handling meals are considered to be satisfactory.

HOUSING.

GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS.—There is still a long list of urgent housing applications, particularly in Shevington, but during the year the Council's Housing programme has been recommenced after interruption caused by the need for sewerage.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—		
Traditional permanent houses:—		
(i)	By the Local Authority	—
(ii)	By other Local Authorities	—
(iii)	By other bodies and persons	9
1.—INSPECTION of dwelling-houses during the year:		
(i)	(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	20
	(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	24
(ii)	(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (i) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932)	3
	(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	3
	(iii) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	6

(iv) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	10
2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS during the year without service of Formal Notices :	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	8
3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS during the year :	
A—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	—
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a) by owners	—
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	—
B—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	12
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a) by owners	—
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	—
C—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders.....	—
D—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(i) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	—
(ii) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—

4.—HOUSING ACT, 1936—PART IV.—Overcrowding :—

(a)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year approximately	(est.) 40
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein approx.	80
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein approx.	250
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	10
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	—
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	—

5.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.—An adequate supply of milk is produced within or brought into the district.

(b) MEAT.—There is no slaughtering in the district other than the slaughter of pigs under Ministry of Food Licence. Occasionally, pigs killed privately are inspected.

There are two registered slaughter-houses with shops attached. Periodic inspections are made and any unsound meat rejected.

No legal proceedings were necessary during the year.

6.—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During 1950 cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment were removed to Whelley Hopsital.

8 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year, as against 17 in 1949, 4 cases being removed to hospital for treatment.

One case of Acute Poliomyelitis was notified during the year and was treated at the Christopher Home, Wigan. The patient made a good recovery.

12 cases of Whooping Cough and 9 cases of Measles were notified.

I am pleased to report that there was no outbreak of Food Poisoning in the district during the year.

Free immunisation against Diphtheria is provided for any pre-school or school-child and is performed at the Clinic by the Assistant Divisional Medical Officers or by the General Practitioners in their Surgeries. During 1950 96 pre-school and 33 school-children completed a full course of primary immunisation with two injections of Alum Precipitated Toxoid. In addition 123 children were given a secondary or reinforcing injection.

No preliminary and no post-Schick tests were undertaken.

The general standard of cleanliness and habits in the district remains high, and cases of infestation by lice dealt with at the Clinic were few, and were successfully treated with D.D.T. Emulsion.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1949 :

TABLE 3.

Disease	Total Ages	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	Over 65-	Removed to Hospital	Total Deaths Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	8				1	2	4	1						4		
Measles	9		1		2	2	3	1								
Whooping Cough	12		1	2		4	5									
Pneumonia	1										1					
Erysipelas	1												1			
Acute Poliomyelitis	1											1		1		
TOTALS	32		2	2	3	8	12	2			1	1	1	5		

Distribution over the several Parishes was as follows:—

	Cases.	Total No. of Cases.
DALTON :	—	—
HAIGH :		
Whooping Cough	5	
Measles	2	
Scarlet Fever.....	2	
Pneumonia	1	
Erysipelas	1	
	—	11
PARBOLD :		
Measles	1	
Scarlet Fever.....	1	
	—	2
SHEVINGTON :		
Scarlet Fever.....	2	
Measles	1	
Whooping Cough	1	
	—	4
WORTHINGTON :		
Whooping Cough	5	
	—	5
WRIGHTINGTON :		
Measles	5	
Scarlet Fever.....	2	
Whooping Cough	2	
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	
	—	10
		—
		32
		=====

CANCER.

14 deaths, 9 Males and 5 Females occurred in 1950 compared with 10 deaths, 6 Males and 4 Females in 1949.

Cancer cases are treated at the Manchester Radium Institute and at the Wigan Infirmary Clinic, which works in close conjunction with the Manchester Unit.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No local action has been taken under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness, or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

The administration of the Blind Persons Act, 1920 is undertaken in this area by the staff of the County Medical Officer of Health.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The notifications received during the year under the Public Health (T.B.) Regulations, 1930, were as follows:—

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1950 :

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65-over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Not known	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
	—	1	3	1	2	—	—	—

Notification of the Disease is prompt and satisfactory. The Manchester Regional Hospital Board provides facilities for the treatment of Tuberculosis, and these services are fully used and appreciated. The Tuberculosis Dispensary is in Millgate, Wigan, and patients may be referred there for examination by their own doctor, or by the Assistant County Medical Officer.

Death Rate from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System was :—

Mean of 5 years, 1945—1949	0.18
Year 1949	0.25
Year 1950	0.25
Increase in 1950 on 5 years' average	+0.07
Increase in 1950 on 1949	Nil.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948—Section 47 :

No cases were dealt with during the year under Sub-Section 3 of this Act.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

PART I OF THE ACT.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors):—

PREMISES (1)	M/c. line No. (2)	No. on Register (3)	No. of Inspections (4)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	20	15
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	10	6
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority *(excluding out-workers' premises)	3	4	3
TOTAL		34	24

* Electrical Stations (Section 103 (1)), Institutions, (Section 104) and sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Sections 107 and 108).

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND:—

Two cases of want of cleanliness were found and remedied.
One case of insufficient and two defective sanitary conveniences were found and remedied. (S.7).

PART VIII of the ACT.

OUTWORK.

(SECTIONS 110 and 111).

The number of out-workers in the August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c) was 3 Basket-makers and 2 Wearing Apparel-makers.

G. H. POTTER,
Medical Officer of Health.

